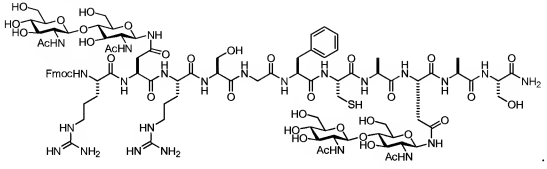
Amendments to the Drawings

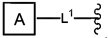
The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 2. The drawings have been amended to include sequence identifiers for the recited peptide sequences. The attached sheets marked "Replacement Sheets" include Figures 1 and 2 and replace the original sheets for Figures 1 and 2.

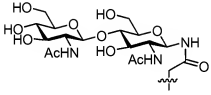
Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2 sheets)
Annotated Sheets (2 sheets)

Remarks

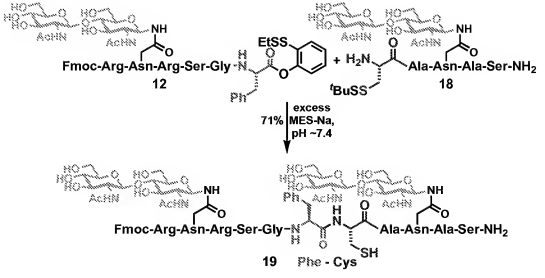
Responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 31, 2008, Applicant elects Group 1 (claim 35), drawn to a method of preparing a polyfunctionalized peptide of structure:



Solely for search purposes, Applicant also elects the polyfunctionalized peptide species recited in claim 35. For the elected species of  , Applicant submits that the polyfunctionalized peptide of claim 35 comprises two occurrences of the species:



. For the elected species of peptide acyl donor and peptide amino acceptor, Applicant elects compounds 12 and 18, respectively:



which are ligated to provide the species recited in claim 35 (compound 19). For an immunogenic carrier, Applicant elects Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin (KLH). The claims readable on the elected species are claims 1-4, 7-23, 25, and 27. The above species election is for searching purposes only. If the elected species is found patentable, Applicant requests that all species within the generic claims be considered.

Applicant also requests that Groups 2, 3, and 4 be rejoined with elected Group 1. This election is made with traverse. The Examiner has asserted that these groups "are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept." Applicant respectfully disagrees and points out that the present claims are drawn to a method of native chemical ligation of two functionalized peptides, wherein the peptide amino acceptor comprises a N-terminal cysteine residue. Thus, a single general inventive concept linking the polyfunctionalized peptides of Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 is that they may each be prepared by a general method (see specification, paragraphs [0142] through [0148]).

Having been prepared by the inventive ligation method of claim 1, a common feature of the polyfunctionalized peptides of Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 is that they all comprise a cysteine residue at the point of ligation. Moreover, Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4 further comprise a phenylalanine residue at the point of ligation, indicating that the same two amino acids were joined via ligation (*i.e.*, peptide acyl donor = phenylalanine, peptide amine acceptor = cysteine). The peptides of Groups 1, 2, and 4 are all of identical peptide sequence, and the peptide of Group 3 differs by only two amino acids located three or four residues away from the point of ligation. Applicant respectfully submits that it is to be expected that there will be some variation in the sequence and functionality of peptides that may be used in a chemical ligation method. Applicant submits that it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to search and examine these groups simultaneously. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner examine Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4 (claims 35-38) in this case.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for careful consideration of this case. Please charge any fees that may be associated with this matter, or credit any overpayments, to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,

/C. Hunter Baker/
C. Hunter Baker, M.D., Ph.D.
Registration Number: 46,533

Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Two International Place
Boston, MA 02110
t (617) 248-5215
f (617) 502-5002
chb@choate.com
Date: June 2, 2008